Lynchburg Dec 11th

My Dear Mother " " " " 1832

Though my pen for some months has not moved to scribble to you the fervid emotions and generous feelings of your boy - though much of time has passed by and past after past assumed unheard - thinging any intelligence to your fond heart who is forced to call you Mother still he assumed that; amidst all the busy thus busy cares of my mountainous life you have not been forgotten filial affection - but have not slackened it they have occasioned a remission in the performance of filial duties but have not obliterated the consciousness of them. These feelings - these oppressive thoughts compared your kind and pressed by timely letter - awakened spreads and have set in motion. Dear your pensive & cheerful letter had the salutary influence upon my jaded and sluggish affections as the spark has upon powder. To be sure you don't mean the report so soon in the former case in the latter case - but you know it as sure and I have doubt can indeed that there is nothing but upon a woman of sober habits and generous spirit can resist easier than to can the simple - unaffected appeals of a mother. You are well a mean my Dear Mother that I have an odd one in our family. I make but few pretensions to the possession of to particular characteristick - viz - a deep and rapid current of affection which too often overflows its banks and deeply inundates the adjacent fields. What a figure that! I don't suppose you will understand it but I mean nothing more nor less than this - that I mean was so fond of home as my brothers and sisters apparently and that they can and do cry ten times to my once any day. But all nothing all this still I know them are about me motive susceptibilities which are often times influenced and strongly by motives - designed to draw out the affections. On this account shine you - I will still claim the priority of membership in a family which though

humble is decidedly objectionable and declined. I hope by the good Providence of God to exert an influence in the formation of the Globe. I thank you for certain suggestions in your letter with regard to my present and prospective pursuits and also the assurance you give me that a frank disclosure of my views and feelings will be cordially reciprocated by you. As it respects my present modes of life I have but little to acknowledge - some qualms of conscience now and then interlined with remorse. I have enjoyed much less this year than I did last year. The same consciousness that I was doing my Master's will has not sweetened the retirement of the day nor relieved the anxiety of the night. I have labored and labored seriously - temporal powers greatly tho' I own my constant attendant that purchased at too dear a rate for it has thrown around the soul a deadly influence. I have no spiritual joys to communicate to you therefore I will not pain you with a recital of my spiritual depravities. My School was very large during the fall term - larger than ever known on the Place before - for aught that I know I succeeded in satisfying all my Scholars except one and closed the term thankful that Health tho' it had suffered some was still so comfortable. I feel at present very much interested - my number probably this winter will not exceed 60 or 70 and my task comparatively light. Eight weeks more will close this term. and perhaps - very likely - my term of teaching forever. I have thought but little and only thought - and this has been that I should leave this place at the close of the term and prepare either to spend the remainder of the year so that I could enter a Theological Seminary at an advanced standing in the fall and Revive what knowledge I have acquired in reading of that one year in my studies. The expression of your warm

wishes strengthens my resolution but I know as yet I would nothing to the contrary and doubt not as they will release me before the end of the year. Hymen may expect to see us Providence permitting at any rate at the end of 8 or 9 weeks. Marion is making at present very rapid improvement in knowledge she was not so good a scholar as I thought she was. I have found her very deficient in many things and it was some weeks before she was able to bring into requisition and concentrate the powers of her mind. It appeared to me that she needed some discipline at first and accordingly she commenced Algebra. Her progress was slow. She is not a Mathematical Genius. She has since pursued the study in connection with French the last term. She made respectable improvement in French. so much so that we find a new source of enjoyment is opened to us by being able to converse with a good degree of fluency in that elegant language. She is pursuing this winter Paines Mental Philosophy in connection with French and is unusually interested. She appears uniformly cheerful and contented. We also have the privilege of attending a singing School this winter taught by one of the most celebrated teachers in our Country - Mr Lunan. Those of Marion as well as myself do not improve it will not be owing to want of means. And now my Mother I have written in great haste and I expect but very little that will do you any good. The sum of my Heart I have not told you and can not tell you. If you have time - please to write me soon again - for your letters do me much good and I pray them richly - Give love to all - especially to Sister Julia. Tell her that Marion and I do not forget her at our prayers so often as she and I wish to do. Her friends love

our usual health. Alice married and gone
Martha & a hard teasing Jane Rhea. May Sam's health much
improved &c &c. Yours Sincerely

W. D. Thaxter

Mrs. Ellen D. Fisher
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Mass